



Board of Directors

Matthew Stout (Chair)

Matthew Stout is a lecturer in the Department of History, School of History and Geography, Dublin City University. He holds a BA and PhD from Trinity College. His research interests include Early Medieval Irish history and Irish landscape studies. He was co-editor of the best-selling *Atlas of the Irish Rural landscape* (Cork 1997, 2011) and amongst his other publications are studies of Irish ringforts, and the results of research excavations in the Boyne Valley. Matthew's involvement with Upstate stems from a background in youth employment schemes and a lifelong love of the theatre. He lives in Julianstown, County Meath.

Date of appointment: 1st October 2007

Bobby McCormack (Secretary)

Bobby Mc Cormack is the co-founder and Director of Development Perspectives, which is a Development NGO based in Ireland. Bobby has a passion for travel, the natural world and sport. Bobby is the Co – Chair of the CONCORD DARE (Development Awareness Raising and Education) Forum and works part time as a Development Studies Lecturer in Dundalk Institute of Technology. He holds an MA in Development and a BSc in Education and Training.

Date of appointment: 1st October 2007

Irene White

Irene White is a lecturer and researcher at Dublin City University. Irene lectures in Initial Teacher Education at undergraduate and postgraduate level. Her teaching is primarily in the areas of Drama Education and English Pedagogy. Her research interests include creativity in education, community-engaged participatory arts and human development, cross-curricular applications of arts-based pedagogies, and the application of drama-based techniques in non-theatre contexts. Irene is a member of the Association for Drama in Education in Ireland (ADEI) and a member of the Centre for Culturally Responsive Evaluation and Assessment (CREA) at Dublin City University. Irene is currently on the Board of Directors for Upstate Theatre Project. She previously worked with the company as assistant director and stage manager for Upstate Live and as a facilitator and director with Upstate Local on a range of cross-border, cross-community projects. Her research on the company "Whose art is it anyway? Devising in Participatory Arts and Professional Theatre Practice: A Critical and Historical Analysis of Upstate Theatre Project", appears in Siobhán O'Gorman and Charlotte McIvor's book *Devised Performance in Irish Theatre: Histories and Contemporary Practice* published by Carysfort Press in 2015.

Date of appointment: 21st May 2008

Alan Costello

Alan Costello is a management consultant, focussed on strategy and innovation in high growth companies. Working with venture backed international companies, multinationals, state agencies and third level institutions, Alan provides a commercial focus and support to C-Level management teams. He is Director and/or Chairman of 4 current high growth companies. He is deeply involved in the arts and social enterprise sector, being a Director of the Drogheda Civic Trust, MyStreets Ireland, The Mill Enterprise Centre, as well as Upstate Theatre Project, and has previously supported local economic development through the Chambers movement.

Date of appointment: 8th June 2011

John Ruddy

John Ruddy is a group facilitator and youth and community worker, currently working with Outcomers LGBT Support Service in Dundalk. John previously worked with Connect Family Resource Centre, the Irish Traveller Movement and the Farney Youth Support and Development Project. John also has experience in the arts sector, having worked with Calipo Theatre and Picture Company, Upstate Theatre Project and Droichead Youth Theatre in a variety of roles over many years, including actor, technician, stage manager, drama facilitator and project co-ordinator.

Date of appointment: 12th October 2015

Paddy Goodwin

Paddy Goodwin is a blues and rock musician, performing as Paddy Goodwin and the Holy Ghosts, and The Trouble Pilgrims. He also a practicing solicitor.

Date of appointment: 1st February 2012

Tara Jenkins

Tara Jenkins developed her arts practice as part of Belfast Community Theatre and has previously worked with Upstate Theatre Project as a facilitator on both youth and adults projects.

Date of appointment: 13th January 2015